



Health Effects

Asthma
Cancers
Lupus
MS
Diabetes
Autism
Parkinson's
Disease
Birth Defects



Exposure Monitoring

Blood Lead
Testing

Other
Bio-monitoring
of Blood
and Urine



Potential Hazards

Air Pollution
Heavy Metals
Lead
Arsenic
Mercury
Cadmium
PCB's
Nitrates
Chemicals



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For more information on Montana's Environmental Public Health Tracking project visit our website: <http://www.dphhs.state.mt.us/epht/>
Or contact us at: (406) 444-4871.



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Environmental Public Health Tracking

Our vision is to protect communities from adverse health effects through the integration of public health and environmental information

Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) is a public health planning tool that finds existing information on health effects and environmental hazards in Montana. Once this information is collected, EPHT links the data and looks at possible relationships between our environment and our health. The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) currently tracks cancer, birth defects, and diabetes. Statewide information on other chronic diseases is currently not available in Montana. Environmental monitoring information is collected by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and other state and federal agencies in Montana. EPHT will generate collaborative efforts between multiple agencies.

While we cannot provide all the answers about the connection between our environment and disease, EPHT can help direct public health research to increase our understanding of the role the environment plays in the health of Montanans.

Currently Montana DPHHS tracks: cancer, birth defects and diabetes rates.

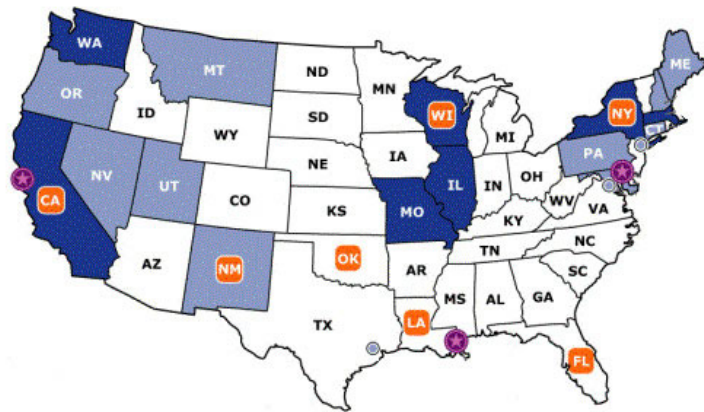


What is Environmental Public Health Tracking?

Tracking is the ongoing collection, integration, analysis, and interpretation of data. Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) looks at environmental hazards, exposure to these hazards, and human health effects that may be related to these hazards. Tracking environmental hazards and potentially related health effects provides us with an opportunity to address challenging public health problems such as chronic disease and birth defects.

The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) together with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) successfully applied for funding from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to begin planning and capacity building for Environmental Public Health Tracking. Montana became one of several national demonstration sites in October 2002. Collectively the demonstration sites are working to develop a plan for a national EPHT network.

The Environmental Public Health Tracking Project will compare data on health effects such as asthma, cancer, and birth defects with data on environmental hazards such as air pollution, water, and soil contamination. Any data available on human exposure to hazards such as blood lead screening results will also be integrated.



Part A: Planning & Capacity Building
Part B: Enhancement & Demonstration Project
Centers of Excellence
Data Linkage Demonstration Projects

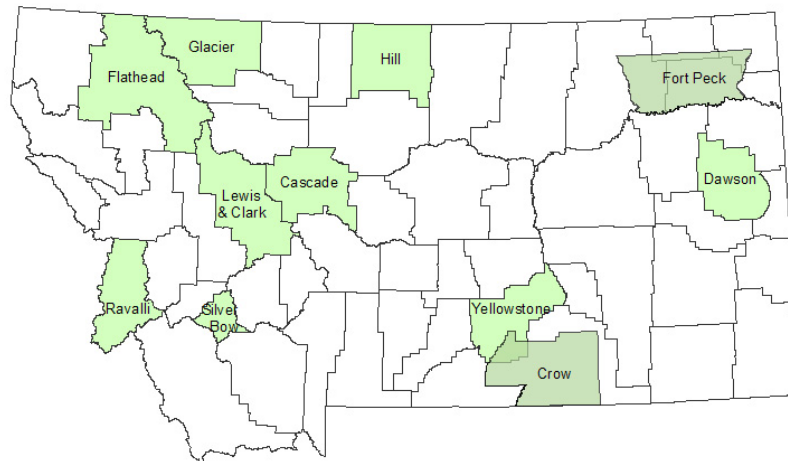
How are Montanans involved in the planning of EPHT?

Statewide Advisory Group

A statewide EPHT Advisory Group, hosted by the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, began meeting in April of 2003. This group consists of EPHT partners from state and federal environmental agencies, Indian Health Services, local and tribal public health agencies, advocacy groups, healthcare associations, healthcare providers, and community members. This advisory group meets quarterly and will assist in setting criteria for determining priorities in the needs assessment process.

Local Environmental Health Needs Assessments

Eleven communities were funded to conduct local Environmental Health Needs Assessments in 2004.



Counties participating: Cascade, Lewis & Clark, Glacier, Hill, Flathead, Ravalli, Silver Bow, Dawson, and Yellowstone. Reservations participating: Crow and Fort Peck. Together the 11 communities are gathering input on the top environmental concerns from people in their communities that will become part of a Statewide Environmental Health Needs Assessment.

Assessing Environmental Health Concerns

Surveys of Groups & Citizens

EPHT is asking county and tribal public health staff, county extension agents, county commissioners, and members of advocacy groups across Montana to identify their top environmental health concerns through surveys. We are also adding questions to the annual Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System survey (BRFSS), which gathers input from a representative sample of Montana citizens about health issues.

Funding Source:

Montana Environmental Public Health Tracking Project is funded 100% by federal funds through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from October 2002 - September 2005. Montana will receive approximately \$510,000/year for this 3-year funding period.

Partners:

Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Montana State Library-Natural Resource Information System
MSU Bozeman, College of Nursing
University of Montana Center for Environmental Health Sciences

Environmental Health is about protecting the quality of the air we breathe, the food we eat, the water we drink, and the places where we work and play.